CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for reordering content in a content object stored as a plurality of content entities in a data repository, each content entity having an identifier, comprising the steps of:

    Defining the content object with a list of content entity identifiers such that moving a content entity identifier to a new location within the list redefines the order of the object's content entities.

2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving a user-specification of a content entity to move and target location for the specified content entity.

3.   The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of providing a user interface communicating with the data repository, and providing a mechanism for enabling a user to select a content entity to move and specify the target location in the content object through the user interface.

4.   A method for reordering content in a hierarchically structured content object stored as a plurality of content entities in a data repository, each content entity having an identifier, comprising the steps of:

    Defining the content object with an outline of containers and content entity identifiers such that moving a container or content entity identifier to a new location within the outline redefines the order of the object's content entities.

5.   The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of receiving a user-specification of a content entity to move and target location for the specified content entity.

6.   The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of providing a user interface communicating with the data repository, and providing a mechanism for enabling a user to select a content entity to move and specify the target location in the content object through the user interface.

5

7.   The method of claim 4, wherein the content object comprises a book, the content entities comprise sections and the containers comprise chapters and books.

8.   A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of

10   instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for reordering content in a content object stored as a plurality of content entities in a data repository, each content entity having an identifier, comprising the steps of:

        Defining the content object with a list of content entity identifiers such that moving a content entity identifier to a new location within the list redefines the order of the object's

15   content entities.

9.   The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of receiving a user-specification of a content entity to move and target location for the specified content entity.

20   10.   The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of providing a user interface communicating with the data repository, and providing a mechanism for enabling a user to select a content entity to move and specify the target location in the content object through the user interface.

11. A method for reordering content in a hierarchically structured content object stored as a plurality of content entities in a data repository, each content entity having an identifier, comprising the steps of:

Defining the content object with an outline of containers and content entity identifiers such that moving a container or content entity identifier to a new location within the outline redefines the order of the object's content entities.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of receiving a user-specification of a content entity to move and target location for the specified content entity.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of providing a user interface communicating with the data repository, and providing a mechanism for enabling a user to select a content entity to move and specify the target location in the content object through the user interface.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the content object comprises a book, the content entities comprise sections and the containers comprise chapters and books.

15. A system for reordering content in a content object stored as a plurality of content entities in a data repository, each content entity having an identifier, comprising:

Means for defining the content object with a list of content entity identifiers such that moving a content entity identifier to a new location within the list redefines the order of the object's content entities.

16. The system of claim 15, further comprising means for receiving a user-specification of a content entity to move and target location for the specified content entity.

17. The system of claim 16, further comprising a user interface communicating with the data repository, and a mechanism for enabling a user to select a content entity to move and specify the target location in the content object through the user interface.

18. A system for reordering content in a hierarchically structured content object stored as a plurality of content entities in a data repository, each content entity having an identifier, comprising:

Means for defining the content object with an outline of containers and content entity identifiers such that moving a container or content entity identifier to a new location within the outline redefines the order of the object's content entities.

19. The system of claim 18, further comprising means for receiving a user-specification of a content entity to move and target location for the specified content entity.

20. The system of claim 19, further comprising a user interface communicating with the data repository, and a mechanism for enabling a user to select a content entity to move and specify the target location in the content object through the user interface.

21. The system of claim 18, wherein the content object comprises a book, the content entities comprise sections and the containers comprise chapters and books.